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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: A. Bhan, et al. Group Art Unit: 1623

Serial Number: 09/498,773 Examiner: L. Crane

Filing Date: February 5, 2000

For: Method for Deprotecting Oglionucleotides

Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the office action mailed October 12, 2000, in connection with the prosecution of the captioned application, please consider the following Amendments and Remarks. Applicants are submitting, concurrently herewith, a petition to extend the period for response three months to and including April 12, 2001.

IN THE CLAIMS

✓
Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

A1 Sub#
BH

6. (once amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein the phosphate protecting group is a 2-cyanoethyl phosphate group.

✓
Please amend Claim 8 as follows:

A2

8. (once amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the reagent used to selectively remove phosphate protecting groups is an amine with a formula $R-N-R_1R_2$ wherein R, R_1 and R_2 are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, or a hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of alkyl, allyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl,